



STORYWORLD

# A MIDNIGHT™ OPERA

*by Hans Steinbach*

1



***A Midnight Opera Act 1***  
created by Hans "Hanzo" Steinbach

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# A MIDNIGHT OPERA

ACT 1

CREATED BY  
HANS "HANZO" STEINBACH



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

*I sing.*

*I sang.*

*I song.*

*I song deep.*

*I song deep pain.*

*I song deep love.*

*I have songed since song was sung.*

*Each song a separate piece...*

*In a longer song...*

*A Midnight Opera...*

*...of my lovely, painful life.*



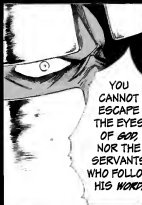
Dassy, France  
1562



...because  
they know  
we were  
among them.



IN THE NAME  
OF HIS LORD  
EMPEROR  
FREEDMAN I  
OF THE HOLY  
ROMAN EMPIRE,  
I COMMAND YOU  
TO EMERGE  
FROM THIS  
ILLEGAL CHURCH  
AND FACE  
JUDGMENT!



YOU  
CANNOT  
ESCAPE  
THE EYES  
OF GOD,  
NOR THE  
SERVANTS  
WHO FOLLOW  
HIS WORD!

It was to be our end,  
but I was too young  
to know that as well.









**DONG**

*Paris, France  
Present*



# RUE MORGUE

Tonight: Einblick DelosLune

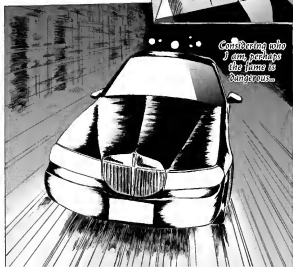
Needless  
to say, I  
survived.



*My first  
passion has  
always been  
music.*



*I never  
expected  
it to bring  
me fame.*



*Considering who  
I am, perhaps  
the fame is  
dangerous..*



WE'VE  
ARRIVED,  
MONSIEUR  
PELAUNE.



*Yes, it is  
awfully fun.*











*Not an  
entirely happy  
love story.*









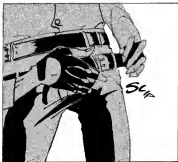
THE  
HEATHENS  
BURN...



...BUT THE  
REMAINS HAVE  
ESCAPED.













ARE  
YOU  
READY  
TO  
ROCK  
#!!!





ETNBLICK

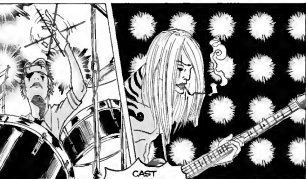
ROCK ON!

AGGGG

ROCK

Nowhere

Nowhere



CAST  
AWAY YOUR  
PRIDE, THERE'S  
NOWHERE TO HIDE.  
SAY FAREWELL TO THE  
SICKENING SADNESS.  
TASTE THE BUSS OF  
THE FLICKERING  
MADNESS.



YOU SEE A  
MONSTER IN ME  
AND I SEE A  
MONSTER  
IN YOU!



FREE THE  
KILLING BEAST  
WITHIN. THE FINAL  
SHOW IS ABOUT  
TO BEGIN. THROUGH  
THE SLAYING OF  
MY KIN, I SHALL  
JUSTIFY MY SIN!





I SEE A  
MONSTER  
IN YOU  
AND YOU SEE  
A MONSTER  
IN ME!

*Modesty aside,  
I am very  
good.*





YOU SEE  
A MONSTER  
IN ME AND I  
SEE A MONSTER  
IN YOU! I SEE  
A MONSTER IN  
YOU AND YOU  
SEE A MONSTER  
IN ME!



"An elegant synthesis of tragedy and rock." ★★★★★

ETHNICK.

TOUCH ME!

"He's an incredible gothic presence." ★★★★★

SIGN MY BLOOD

"His pain seeps into your  
blood and swirls through  
your body." ★★★★★

AGGGGH!

"It's just a bunch of manliness,  
pretensions, Euro-trash druck."











*After a century  
and a half of  
thrill-despair, I  
have found love  
again.*



*It seems  
I am running  
late.*

TOX



*She doesn't  
like that  
I smoke.*



*She says  
that i'll kill  
me one day.*



*She may  
be right.*

*Phew*



**ULULULU**

TARGET  
LOCATED



**ULULULU ULULULU**



**ULULULU ULULULU**

**BEEP BEEP**



*I should  
really quit.*



I SEE  
HIM. AN  
EASY  
SHOT.



OH  
MY GOD!  
JERN-  
PIERRE--!!  
GROGH!



CHARLES!  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?!



THEY'RE  
EVERY-  
WHERE!  
THEY'RE  
EVERY-  
WHERE!!  
GAGGGKKK!









Howwwwwwllllll





*Finally,  
I'm no longer  
alone.*



*Dassy, France  
1609*



*The remains of the  
Church of Salvation*

FOR  
NEARLY  
FIFTY  
YEARS, OUR  
KIND HAS  
STRUGGLED  
TO LIVE  
PEACEFULLY  
WITHIN A  
EUROPE  
THAT WOULD  
NEVER  
US.





LEAD  
PERSONAGES  
ARE NO LONGER  
FUGITIVES  
FROM THE  
LAW. OUR KING,  
HENRY IV OF  
ARCADE, HAS  
CHAMPIONED  
FOR OUR  
LEGITIMACY  
AND HAS WON.

WE ARE  
AGAIN  
FREE.

OUR  
ARCADE  
KINGDOM  
HAS BEEN  
FOUND.

HURRAH  
HURRAH

AND NOW IT  
IS TIME FOR  
CELEBRATION.



*It was indeed a  
glorious night.*

*I remember it  
with bitter joy.*















YOU  
ARE OUR  
~~ARMY~~  
AND THIS IS  
OUR HOME  
WHERE YOU  
ARE FREE  
TO LIVE—



UNDER THE  
WATCHFUL  
EYES OF  
AD



YES, OF  
COURSE

ADAM  
COME  
JOIN US  
IN OUR  
~~ARMY~~  
TONIGHT  
WE MARK A  
MOMENTOUS  
OCCASION.



*DELLAE,  
EALAE,  
DANCING,  
FOOT,  
WINE.*

WE'VE  
BONE IT,  
LEROUX.

ARE  
YOU NOT  
PROUD  
OF US?

MORTAL MAN  
IS A *PICKLE*  
BEAST.



HAVE  
FAITH,  
BROTHER.  
THIS WILL  
BE THE  
DAWN OF A  
PEACEFUL  
AGE.



*But King Henry III  
--our champion--  
was stabbed to death by a  
Catholic fanatic in 1610...*

*...and I would not return  
to music again for...  
a long, long time.*



*A Midnight Opera of -  
my lovely, painful life.*

YOU BURNED  
THE PLACE  
DOWN TONIGHT,  
*HOT STUFF!*



Her name is  
*Dahlia Whyte*,  
a woman with  
sass and class.



Perfect  
in every  
way.









I LOVE YOU  
AND I WANT  
TO SPEND  
THE REST  
OF MY LIFE  
WITH YOU. RUN  
AWAY WITH  
ME. *ANNA*



I'LL  
FINISH MY  
LAST SHOW  
TOMORROW  
NIGHT...

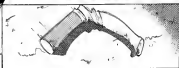
AND  
WE CAN  
LEAVE ON  
A RED EYE  
AFTER-  
WARD.

MEET ME AT  
THE *ARC DE  
TRIUMFÉ*.  
A SUITCASE  
PACKED, YOUR  
PASSPORT  
READY.

*AND...*



SO  
YOU'RE IN  
LOVE WITH  
ME, *JOE*





Paris  
1850



YOU CANNOT  
BE IN *LOVE*  
WITH HER,  
*EDM*



ADMIRATION,  
RESPECT,  
APPRECIATION.  
I CAN UNDER-  
STAND ALL  
OF THESE  
BUT THEY ARE  
HARDLY *LOVE*.  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO  
*LOVE*.



THIS  
ALLIANCE  
WITH ~~SPERA~~  
HAS TOUCHED  
YOU WITH  
~~ARMIES~~



YOUR  
ATTENTION  
TO THE GAME  
HAS WAVED  
SIGNIFICANTLY  
OVER THE LAST  
HUNDRED YEARS,  
BUT I HAVE  
CHOSEN TO  
~~EXERCISE~~  
~~PATIENCE~~  
NOW THIS--



THE THREAT  
IS OVER, LEROUX.  
WE HAVE DONE  
WHAT WE NEEDED  
TO DO. WE MADE  
EUROPE SAFE  
FOR US.

NO ONE IS  
HOLDING US  
ANYMORE.



BUT THEY'LL  
NEVER BE ABLE  
TO /REBUS.



WHAT WE  
ONCE WERE  
TO THEM NO  
LONGER  
/SCOTTS

THEY'LL  
ALWAYS BE  
HUNTING US  
/BINSLOCK.



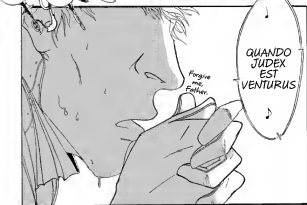
Paris  
Present

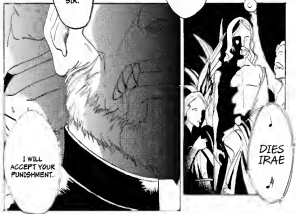
DEUS INVOCATUR

DIES  
IRAE

DIES  
ILLA













GOODBYE,  
LOVERBOY.



She  
never  
gave  
me an  
answer.



Come to  
think of it,  
I don't know  
what I was  
expecting.







St. Germain  
Hospital



















*But Hector  
Doesn't say  
much.*

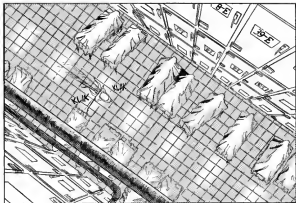


*I suppose  
that's why I  
trust him.*



*It's crowded  
tonight.*









*Maybe  
it is  
impossible  
for us to  
truly love.*



*That  
would  
suck.*



*But what's  
to worry...*





*Thank you,  
Hector.*



*You allow me  
my sleep.*



*Non è  
un'illusione  
eppure il  
palco mio  
che sento il  
cuore in quel  
l'attende...*





*Preparati  
Quando  
preparato e  
tempo!*

*Ma tu preparati quello  
sopra? E allora?  
Ma tu preparati?*

*Amore e  
quella maffia.*

*Amore*

*Donna*





Christine!  
Mon dieu,  
Christine!

*CLIP*



*CLIP*

*CLIP*

*CLIP*



I'M  
GOING  
TO  
RIP  
OUT  
YOUR  
HEART!



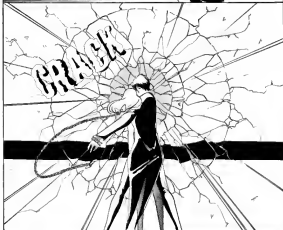




A lot  
stronger.



CRACK



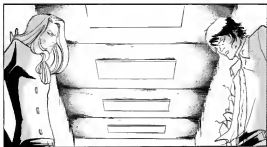
POFF



I CAME TO  
TALK











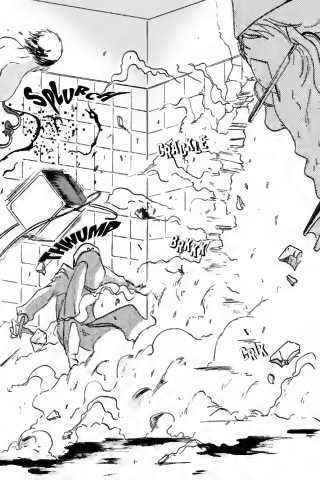




I've never  
been a victim  
before.



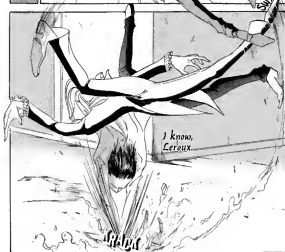


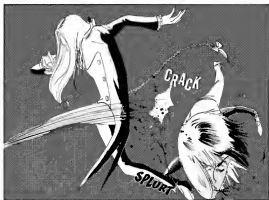
















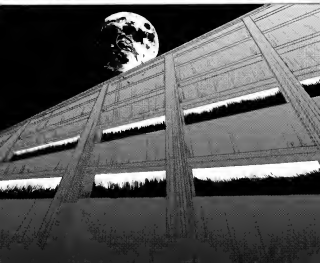
*I can't beat  
my little  
brother.*

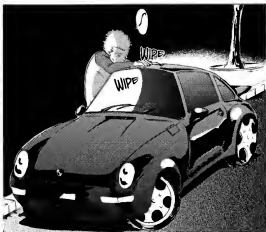


*But I can  
drag him  
down...*



*...down  
to hell!*









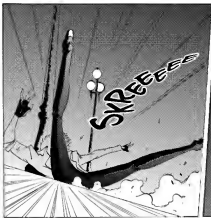






*He can make  
acts of sheer  
brutality and  
violence...*

















*He can see it  
in my eyes.*







*I'm  
not  
calm.*



*Grannaceeva*

*Hofana Hwa*



*I want to  
kill him.*

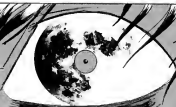




*What  
Something's  
happened...*



*Dahlia...*

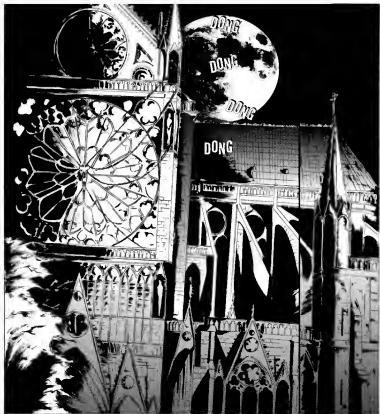


*Christina...*











*That's right,  
Lesson.*



HEH.



*Now I am  
the beast  
who must  
be caged.*







DID YOU  
GET IT ALL  
OUT OF YOUR  
SYSTEM?



I NEED A  
SMOKE









I ~~ADAPTED~~ WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
CHRISTINE. AND I  
CAN ~~WAIL~~ AT YOU  
DECLARATIONS OF  
MY ~~INNOCENCE~~,  
BUT I KNOW THAT  
THEY WOULD BE  
POINTLESS AND,  
TO A CERTAIN  
DEGREE,  
INGENUOUS.



I HAVE  
~~RESPECTED~~  
YOUR WISHES, EIN.  
FOR ~~ONE HUNDRED~~  
AND FIFTY YEARS  
I DIDN'T FOLLOW  
YOU. I DIDN'T TRY  
TO DRAG YOU BACK.  
I SIMPLY WEPT AT  
MY ~~FOLLY~~.

I WEPT SO  
MUCH, THAT I WAS  
~~ADAPTED~~ WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING AROUND ME.  
AND SO IT ~~CAME~~ TO PASS  
THAT I MUST NOW APPEAL  
TO YOUR ~~GREATER~~  
~~SENSE OF~~  
~~PURPOSE~~.



I HAVE NO  
~~GREATER~~  
~~SENSE OF~~  
~~PURPOSE~~  
LEFT. I'M DUMB  
AND IN LOVE  
AND, FOR THE  
~~FIRST~~ TIME  
IN MY LIFE,  
~~SELFISH~~. I  
DON'T OWE  
YOU A THING.



LAST  
NIGHT, IN  
THE ALLEY  
OUTSIDE OF  
THE ~~JOE~~  
~~ADRIAN~~,  
I SAVED  
YOUR  
LIFE.



WELL,  
THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH,  
LEROUX. I  
APPRECIATE  
THAT A LOT.



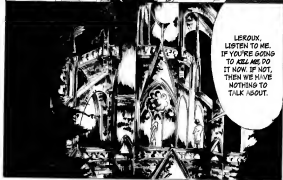
IT'S  
*THE ORDER*.  
THEY ARE HERE  
AGAIN TO  
DESTROY US.



SO SHACK 'EM  
AROUND GIVE 'EM  
A BLOODY NOSE, AND  
THEY'LL TAKE OFF  
FOR ANOTHER  
COUPLE HUNDRED  
YEARS.



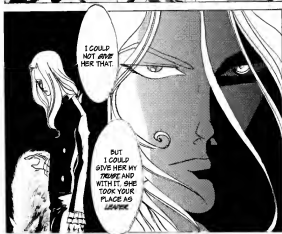
THAT  
ISN'T ALL,  
EIK.



LEROUX,  
LISTEN TO ME.  
IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO KILL ME DO  
IT NOW. IF NOT,  
THEN WE HAVE  
NOTHING TO  
TALK ABOUT.



WHEN  
YOU LEFT,  
*ELIZABETH  
BATHORY*  
BECAME MY  
STRENGTH.  
SHE WANTED  
MY LOVE.



I COULD  
NOT ~~GIVE~~  
HER THAT.

BUT  
I COULD  
GIVE HER MY  
~~TRUST~~ AND  
WITH IT, SHE  
TOOK YOUR  
PLACE AS  
~~LEADER~~





I'M  
SORRY,  
EINBLICK.



I HAD  
INTENDED TO  
LEAVE YOU BE  
FOREVER.



I AM IN LOVE,  
LEROUX, AGAIN.  
THE ~~ACCEPT~~ FELT  
BEFORE SEEMED  
INTERMINABLE, BUT  
IT DID PASS. I  
STILL CARRY IT  
AROUND AS A HEAVY  
GUILT. BUT AT LEAST  
I HAVE ALLOWED  
MYSELF TO LOVE  
AGAIN.

IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO  
LOVE, ESH.



IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO DO  
ANYTHING BUT  
FIGHT THIS  
WAR.





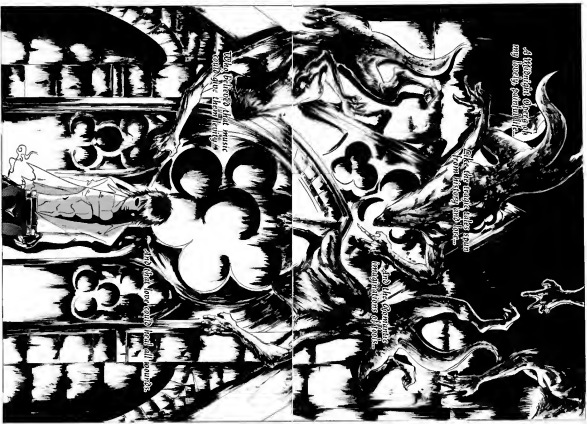
*A Western story of  
my heart's content.*

*Like the comic tales spun  
from history and lore.*

*and the legends  
imaginaries of folk.*

*And brings that music  
with you when leaving.*

*And that you could find all sounds.*



MY HEART  
IS FAR TOO  
WEAK FOR  
ME TO LEAD.



IT SOUNDS LIKE  
IT MIGHT BE TIME  
FOR US TO BE  
NEEDER



ARE  
YEAH.  
I JUST  
FOUND  
OUT IT'S  
HIS LAST  
SHOW.









She said  
yes.



Shirley,  
my love

How do I  
explain that  
I still love  
you...



HIYA,  
STRANGER.

...without  
telling you  
the truth...



*without  
telling you  
who I am...*

I CAN'T  
**BELIEVE**  
WHAT I'M  
HEARING!



YOUR  
HEART'S  
MELTING  
FOR ME.  
ONE NIGHT,  
THEN ~~GOES~~  
THE NEXT

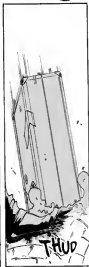


PAHLIA,  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK I'D  
~~CHOOSE~~  
THESE?



I LOVE  
YOU.

...without  
telling you  
anything...



THUD





YOU  
ALWAYS  
HAVE  
CONTROL  
OVER YOUR  
CHOICES,  
EIN.

ONLY A  
FOOL THINK  
OTHERWISE.



Not a  
fool  
at all...









*This is not  
my war.*

*I'D FOLLOW  
YOU INTO HELL  
ITSELF IF  
I HAD TO...*

*Good luck,  
Leroux.*

*Good--*

NO NO  
I WAS SO  
CLOSE.  
WHY WON'T  
ANYONE  
LET ME RUN  
AWAY?

WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
GOING ON,  
EDIE?

BECAUSE  
YOU ARE  
THE KID  
SPAWN OF  
LUCIFER  
EDIE



I HAVE  
CHASED YOU  
ACROSS LAND  
AND THROUGH  
TIME. I HOLD MY  
BREATH SIMPLY  
TO BE ABLE  
TO HUNT YOU  
FOREVER  
IF I HAD  
TO



AND HERE YOU ARE,  
FINALLY, BEFORE ME.  
AREPASH EINDLICK  
DELALUNE, IN THE NAME  
OF THE AREPASH  
JUDGE YOU ARE UNDER  
ARREST, TO STAND TRIAL  
IN A COURT OF THE  
CHURCH WHERE YOU  
WILL BE FOUND GUILTY  
OF POSSESSION BY THE  
DEVIL AND JUDGED AT  
THE STAKE UNTIL YOU  
ARE DEAD.



SHUT UP  
THOU WOT  
HOLY CLERGY!  
I'M GOTTA  
MOVE!

LET'S  
GO,  
PAHLIA.











I WILL  
REMEMBER YOU  
ALL, DOCTORS  
INCLUDING  
THAT WITCH  
ANTHONY!



STAY CLOSE  
TO ME, DANLIA.  
WE STILL HAVE  
A PLANE TO  
CATCH.

ARE  
YOU IN  
SOME  
TROUBLE  
EDN?

ARE  
YOU IN  
SOME  
*TRICKLE*  
DOWN?



KILL  
THEM  
ALL

BZZZZTZZZZTZZZZT

GRAAA

GRACK

GRRAAGG













ELIZABETH,  
WE LOST  
EIN. THE  
ORDER GOT  
INVOLVED. AND  
SO DID YOUR  
OLD FLAME.  
LEROUX. I AM  
SURE THAT  
DELIGHTS  
YOU TO  
NO END.



Leroux and I wanted  
to create a perfect society,  
a seamless integration of  
humans and the undead.



*I was stupid  
to think that  
it could last  
without me.*





I can always  
looking for  
you...



but I was not  
born to love.



LEONARD  
IS BACK.



A man whom I consider greatly once told  
me that a being like me could never really  
truly love. And maybe he was right. Maybe  
my immersion in the world of humanity  
opened my mind to the possibility of love  
less as an intellectual concept. But no  
matter how I strive myself in the best  
spheres of the romantic, the heart in me  
remains cold...and forever will.



IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

# A MIDNIGHT OPERA

Brummed under the direst of circumstances, the brothers DeLalune now face challenges from all around, on one side the ghoulish creatures of the undead under the control of the witch Elizabeth Bathory, and on another side, Cardinal LaCroix and the soldiers of The Order. And with everything he built over the last four hundred years now either usurped or destroyed, Emblick must now rebuke the enlightened philosophy that has guided him for so long and embrace the very warrior's savagery he has always worked to abolish.

COMING APRIL 2006

# THE ORIGINAL A MIDNIGHT OPERA

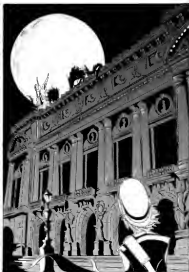
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## Hans Steinbach

came to us in the fall of 2004 with an idea for a different kind of gothic horror story, one steeped in history and lore and rich in character. He presented us with some of the most incredible character designs and sequential art we had seen in the fledgling days of our foray into original English language manga. Hans' artistic style is influenced greatly by European and American artists. But his storytelling style--contemplative, stirring musings on the human condition--has been shaped primarily by exposure to Japanese manga. The following pages feature his original submission to TOKYOPOP; the first glimpse we had of an artist we are now proud to herald as one of our original creators.















G R R R



I HATE IT  
WHEN YOU  
BITCHES  
SNEAK UP  
FROM BEHIND  
LIKE THAT...



RATTA  
TATTA

RATTA  
TATTA



TRES  
BIEN!  
BRAVO!  
BRAVO!  
BRAVO...  
ENBlick!



CLAP  
CLAP

CLAP  
CLAP



NOW I'LL  
TEAR YOU  
TO PIECES,  
LIKE I DID  
TO YOUR  
PRECIOUS  
CHRISTINE!



LEROUX DELALUNE...  
AS LONG AS ONE OF  
MY HEARTS IS STILL  
BEATING, I'LL CONTINUE  
TO HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE  
THE DOG YOU ARE.

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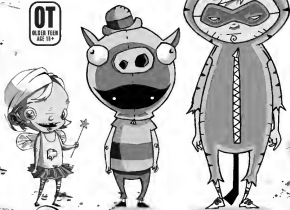
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# I LUV HALLOWEEN

## I LUV HALLOWEEN

Written by Keith Giffen, comic book pro and English language adapter of *Battle Royale* and *Battle Vixens*.

Join the misadventures of a group of particularly disturbing trick-or-treaters as they go about their macabre business on Halloween night. Blaming the apples they got from the first house of the evening for the bad candy they've been receiving all night, the kids plot revenge on the old bag who handed out the funky fruit. Riotously funny and always wickedly shocking—who doesn't love Halloween?



Preview the manga at:  
[www.TOKYOPOP.com/iluvhalloween](http://www.TOKYOPOP.com/iluvhalloween)



THIS TIME IT'S NOT ONLY  
ABOUT THE CANDY...



# MARK OF THE SUCCUBUS

BY ASHLEY RAFTI & TRENE FLURES

Maeva, a succubus-in-training, is sent to the human world to learn how to hone her skills of seduction. But things get complicated when she sets her sights on Aiden, a smart but unmotivated student at her new high school. Meanwhile, the Demon World has sent a spy to make sure Maeva doesn't step out of line. And between Aiden's witchy girlfriend, his nutty best friend, and Demon World conspiracies, Maeva is going to be lucky to make it out of our world alive!

Here is a Gothic romantic fantasy set in one of the most menacing worlds known to humans: high school.



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**VAN HUNTER  
MANGA CREATED  
WITH MANGA STUDIO**



BY FUYUMI SORYO

## MARS

I used to do the English adaptation for *MARS* and loved working on it. The art is just amazing—Fuyumi Soryo draws these stunning characters and beautiful backgrounds to boot. I remember this one spread in particular where Rei takes Kira on a ride on his motorcycle past this factory, and it's all lit up like Christmas and the most gorgeous thing you've ever seen—and it's a factory! And the story is a super-juloy soap opera that kept me on the edge of my seat just dying to get the next volume every time I'd finish one.

—Elizabeth Hurchalla, Sr. Editor



BY SHOHEI MINABE

## DEAD END

Everyone I've met who has read *Dead End* admits to becoming immediately immersed and obsessed with Shohei Minabe's unforgettable manga. If David Lynch, Clive Barker and David Cronenberg had a love child that was forced to create a manga in the bowels of a torture chamber, then *Dead End* would be the fruit of its labor. The unpredictable story follows a grungy young man as he pieces together shattered fragments of his past. Think you know where it's going? Well, think again!

—Troy Lewter, Editor

